

# Air Force Priorities

Winning the Global War on Terror / Developing Airmen / Recapitalization and Modernization



**Lasting Heritage... Limitless Horizons**



# Introduction



The background of the page features a large, stylized graphic of a pair of wings spread wide, with a five-pointed star centered below them. The entire graphic is rendered in various shades of blue, creating a layered, abstract effect.

## The Mission of the U.S. Air Force

is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests—to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

Complex and unpredictable global threats emerge every day and the Air Force is postured to provide options for the defense of the nation by sustaining an agile, adaptable, persistent, lethal, and surge-ready air, space, and cyberspace force.

Our persistent Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C4ISR), global

mobility, and rapid strike capabilities are critical to all joint operations. As we increasingly integrate our Active Duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve components into the entire Joint team, our combat capability and peacetime efficiency will only increase.

We're at a critical juncture—a transition period that will shape the Air Force and our nation's security for generations to come. By focusing on our main priorities—winning the Global War on Terror, developing Airmen, and recapitalizing and modernizing the Total Force—we are prepared to face the challenges of today and the uncertainties of tomorrow.

# 1

## Winning the Global War on Terror

Our enemies are constantly growing and changing. To combat these changes, we must remain vigilant in our pursuit to ensure the continued safety and security of our nation and her citizens. The Air Force is committed to doing so while still projecting the many unique capabilities necessary to defeat terrorism anywhere in the world. Maintaining combat readiness is a key factor in supporting the Global War on Terror (GWOT).

This “Long War,” with its ongoing support to the Combatant Commander is changing the way we conduct business. As we continue to support our customers, we must continue to fight to defeat terrorism while injecting Joint lessons learned into our daily operations.

**“This Global War on Terror imposes on Airmen a new steady state of accelerated operations and personnel tempo, as well as a demand for unprecedented speed, agility, and innovation in defeating unconventional and unexpected threats.”**

**–General T. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff of the Air Force**





- America's unparalleled space-based capabilities give Joint warfighters the winning edge in navigation and precision, timing, missile warning, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and global communication.
- The Total Force has enabled the Air Force to sustain our critical contribution to the nation's defense in the Global War on Terror. Active Duty, Reserve, and Air National Guard members, along with our Joint and Coalition partners, remain at war globally.
- Air Force special operations forces continue to play an integral part in the GWOT. By leveraging a highly trained and motivated special operations force and integrating developing technologies, we deliver a smaller, hard-hitting, and survivable force to the war.
- Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) has played a vital role in missions from Operation Anaconda to humanitarian relief in New Orleans. New CSAR-X aircraft will be capable of worldwide deployment in an increased threat environment.
- Ensuring the nation's unrestricted access to cyberspace is an Air Force priority in sustaining forces and projecting power in the GWOT. We are committed to maintaining and growing our ability to secure and manipulate cyberspace, the new strategic domain of the 21st century.



# 2

## Developing Airmen

Today's challenging global environment necessitates capable leaders at all levels to ensure the success of our force. Airmen are engaged in a dizzying array of missions, from operating satellites in deep space, applying Air Power to the surface battlefields of Afghanistan and Iraq, maintaining air defense of the skies over the United States, launching Air Mobility Command aircraft approximately every 90 seconds, 24/7, 365 days a year, to directly supporting the hurricane-ravaged communities along the Gulf Coast. The methodical steps taken to develop well-rounded Airman leaders are carefully planned and executed beginning the moment we take our oath, accepting the core values—**Integrity, Excellence, and Service Before Self**. These core values empower us as Airmen to stand on the shoulders of our forefathers and accept the responsibilities and challenges that will make us heroes of the future.

In place or deployed, Airmen and their families are the most important priority and represent the key to success in the Global War on Terror. Maintaining peak combat capability begins and ends with smart, healthy, motivated, trained, and well-equipped Airmen. To this end, we have a continuing need to recruit, retain, equip, and train our entire force. These challenges are great and the stakes are high. While we give Airmen leaders the tools they need to overcome even the greatest odds, we must



continue to look for new and innovative ways to maintain and improve our training, personal and professional education, and quality of life to continue to meet the commitments of today while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow.

Knowledge is power and empowering our Airmen is what sustains the United States Air Force as the world's premier Air Force.

- In order to adapt to the new nature of warfare, the Air Force is actively seeking to further integrate the Active, Guard, and Reserve components into a seamless global force.
- The Air Force is pursuing force-shaping initiative programs such as restricted reenlistment, voluntary transfer to the Air Reserve Components, and shortened service commitments.
- Air Force leaders are focused on ensuring quality of life—world-class programs, facilities, and morale-enhancing activities attract and keep world-class Airmen.
- The length of Basic Military Training has been extended, with added focus on Expeditionary Airmen skills.
- In addition to expanded technical schools, we have created Combat Battlefield Airmen





training for targeted Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs). We have enhanced our foreign language and regional studies programs in all Professional Military Education. We will expand the use of international affairs specialists to fill key positions for Combatant Commands (COCOMs), DoD agencies, and U.S. embassies.

- Current force shaping initiatives are integral to our overall transformation. Mission areas that are no longer relevant will be re-engineered.



**“We clearly have the best people in the world. If we are going to ask our Airmen to defend this nation, then we owe it to them to give them the best opportunities for career development... and give them the best possible standard of living and the best possible training.”**

**– General T. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff of the Air Force**

# 3

## Recapitalization

Our enemies and potential adversaries are not standing idly by; they're working day and night to devise new ways to confront American air, space, and cyberspace power. And yet, we operate the oldest air and space inventories in history. Therefore, it's absolutely imperative we modernize and replace these old aircraft and spacecraft to ensure our continued dominance across all domains.

Everyday we push to become more capable, efficient, and lethal as we promote freedom throughout the world. Modernizing our assets will significantly enhance what we bring to the Joint fight. Increasing operational and maintenance costs decrease force readiness, impact the entire team, and ultimately

affect national security. If we are going to continue to fly and fight America's wars, we must modernize our fleet of aging aircraft.

We have a comprehensive strategy of **divestiture, procurement, and modernization** that eliminates the most expensive, least effective systems, while rebalancing the Total Force and ensuring continued Combatant Commander support.

Through our strategy, we will eliminate work processes that do not provide value to the Air Force mission. The by-product of these efforts will generate savings in a constrained budget environment that can be used to recapitalize the force.





- The Air Force will fund recapitalization efforts through accelerated retirement of legacy platforms, as well as organizational and process restructuring, in order to capture efficiencies and produce manpower savings.
- Our reliance on aged platforms limits our ability to provide Global Vigilance, Global Reach, and Global Power. In order to field an able and dominant force we must procure new systems and divest legacy aircraft. Our top five procurement priorities move us in that direction: KC-X; CSAR-X; space-based early warning and communication satellites; F-35; Next generation long range strike. In addition, we continue to pursue program initiatives within our mission areas to ensure the strategic defense of America.
  - Global Vigilance — Acquire Global Hawks, Predators, and pods for every shooter. Upgrade/modernize Global Network/Global Information Grid, E-3, and E-8 aircraft.



- Global Reach — Acquire C-17s, Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCAs), C-130Js, and Precision Drop.
- Global Power — Upgrade/modernize our legacy fighters and bombers and continue acquisition of F-22.
- Dedicated Special Operations Forces (SOF) — Acquire CV-22s. Upgrade/modernize C-130s and continue to explore enhancements (i.e. A-10, counter insurgency platforms, UAV squadrons).
- Recapitalization will not happen overnight. A deliberate and planned approach that balances divestiture of personnel and programs with procurement of new platforms and systems will result in a more lethal, agile force.

**“We must manage our force to ensure the Air Force is properly sized, shaped, and organized to meet the global challenges of today and tomorrow,”**  
 – Michael W. Wynne, Secretary of the Air Force






# Conclusion





A large, stylized silhouette of an Air Force One aircraft is centered on the page. The aircraft is depicted in a dark blue color against a lighter blue background. The wings are spread wide, and the tail is visible. The overall shape is symmetrical and angular, with sharp points at the wingtips and tail. The aircraft is positioned horizontally, facing left.

As global threats continue to increase, we are poised to face the challenge. To realize our mission, we have designated our priorities: maintaining a razor-sharp focus on fighting the Global War on Terror, developing our Airmen into capable leaders at all levels, and recapitalizing and modernizing our Total Force.

Meeting these challenges will require bold new initiatives. Airmen understand these intuitively, and will ensure our nation's asymmetric advantages through an agile, adaptable, persistent, lethal, and surge-ready air, space, and cyberspace force. We remain steadfast in our commitment to fly and fight for our nation's freedom, rights, and interests.

